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The Order of the Knights of the Holy Cross

*Founded in Feb. 1919 by
Albert E. Potts, Pastor of the First Methodist
Episcopal Church, Cheboygan, Mich.*

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Dearly Beloved Brethren:

The aim of the order of the KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY CROSS is to meet a need, that is, a closer unity and sympathy among the young men of our Church. I feel that Christianity is a gospel of brotherhood, and any means which will promote loyalty to the Church, a deeper interest in salvation through Jesus Christ, and a closer alliance between his followers is legitimate and should be encouraged. My whole ambition for this order is that it may glorify God and promote the happiness of men. And the earnest prayer of the founder of this work is: that if it be a means of helping the Christian Church in its work of salvation, that the blessing of Almighty God may attend it, but if it be inimical to his work, may he speedily bring about its failure.

REV. ALBERT E. POTTS.

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Ritual of the Knights of the Holy Cross

Opening of the Castle.

M. T. Gives one blow of the gavel and says: Officers of the Knights of the Holy Cross take your stations. Let every Knight be assembled in this sacred room, for it is the hour of worship. (When all are assembled and seated the M. T. says: Watchman of the Tower, what is your duty in the Castle?)

W. T. To watch the highway of life for seeking souls; to keep away all spies and eavesdroppers, to see that every Knight who enters this sacred room wears the insignia of the order, to assist in initiation and obey your commands.

M. T. You may retire to the tower where you will remain on duty until informed by the Inside Guardsman that the Castle is closed, the I. G. will open the door that you may pass out. (The I. G. arises and opens the door for the W. T. closes it and is seated.)

M. T. Inside Guardsman what is your duty in the Castle?

I. G. (arises) To guard the inner door of the Castle, to admit only those who have passed the inspection of the Watchman of the Tower and who can give the pass words and secrets of the order, to lead all seeking souls to you that you may instruct them in the way of eternal life and obey your commands. (remains standing)

M. T. Sec. of the Knights of the Holy Cross what is your duty in the Castle?

Sec. (arises) To keep accurate accounts of the proceedings of this castle and to report the same at each regular session, to keep strict account of all money paid out and also all that is received and turn all money received over to the treasurer of the Castle. (remains standing)

M. T. Warden what is your duty in the Castle?

Warden. (arises) To assist the Inside Guardsman in leading a candidate to the throne in this Castle, to prepare the castle for worship and initiation and obey your commands. (remains standing)

M. T. Worthy Assistant what is your duty in the Castle?

A. T. (arises) To assist you in any way you may require, to administer the oath of secrecy, to officiate for you in your absence and obey your commands. (remains standing.)

M. T. Calls up Castle with three blows of the gavel and says: Brother officers and Knights of the Holy Cross we meet here for the transaction of lawful business, for fellowship and for the worship of God, to whom this society is dedicated, during which time you will be required to conduct yourselves as becometh faithful Knights of Him who said I am the way, the truth, and the Life, remembering that all of you have sworn to follow Him as the only way to life everlasting and without which promise none can become a member of the order, we trust that our every act and word will be in perfect accord with these sacred principals. Warden you will prepart the Castle for worship.

(The Warden then walks to the alter (turning square corners) and reverently opens the Bible and then returns to his Chair and says:

“The Castle is prepared, O, Master Teacher.”

M. T. Let us all join in singing Hymn No. —

(M. T. selects the Hymn) (The Methodist Hymnal must always be used)

“Let us unite with the Chaplain in prayer.”

Chaplain. Almighty God our Heavenly Father we thankfully acknowledge how tender is thy Good, may Thy Holy Spirit Guard us and guide us during this session and through all coming time. and finally lead us to our heavenly home, we ask it in Jesus' name. Followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

M. T. Officers and Knights give the sign of the order. Then the M. T. giving the sign says: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost I declare this Castle opened for the transaction of its lawful business.

Order of Business.

1. Roll Call of officers.
2. Reading minutes of last session.
3. Does any one know of any Knight who is sick or in distress.
4. Reports of special committees.
5. Report of Membership committee.

7. Receiving candidates by initiation.
 8. Treasurer's Report.
 9. Unfinished business.
 10. New business.
 11. Good of the order.
 12. Announcements of the receipts of the session.
 13. Closing the Castle.
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M. T. arises and addresses the Castle as follows: Officers and Knights of the Holy Cross having duly transacted our lawful business and performed our several acts of worship we will now proceed to close our Castle in due form. Inside Guardsman you will instruct the Watchman of the Tower that the Castle is about to be closed.

I. G. steps to the door, opens it and says: The M. T. is about to close the Castle. (closes the door, remains standing by the door, faces the M. T. and says: O Master Teacher, I have informed the faithful Knight and Watchman of the Tower that the Castle is about to be closed.

M. T. Warden, what are your final duties in this closing ceremony?

Warden. (arises) To receive from every Knight the insignia of the order and put it in its proper place, to see that all paraphernalie of initiation is in its place and properly secured, to make careful note of any damage sustained to Castle property and report the same at the next regular session under the good of the order and at your command close the word of God. (remains standing)

M. T. Worthy Assistant you will now perform your final duty in the closing of this Castle.

A. T. arises and says: Officers and Knights, once more we have met in fellowship and worship, I will once more remind you of your vows admonishing you to ever walk as worthy Knights and followers of the cross. it is our lot on earth to meet and part, but if we conduct ourselves as we have been taught we will some time gather about the throne of the Great Master Teacher of the Universe where sighings and parting will be no more and we will join our celestial brethern in perpetual praise, thanksgiving and worship. (remains standing) (Here the M. T. may ask any Knight to repeat the oath, if pressed for time, this is not necessary.)

M. T. Calls up Castle with three blows of the Gavel.
All join in singing 409 Methodist Hymnal.

M. T. Let us all join with our Chaplain in prayer.

Chaplain. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy divine presence with us during this session, we have met in Thy name and we part in Thy name and thus may we ever walk so that wherever we are, we will always be in the House of the Lord and whatever we do we will always be praising thee.

All Knights respond: Hear and answer our prayer, O Lord.

M. T. says: Amen. Then the A. T. says: Amen. Then the Chaplain and Knights repeat in unison. Amen. This prayer is followed by the Gloria.

M. T. Warden close the word of God.

Warden does so. Returns to his Chair and says: The word of God is closed, O Master teacher.

M. T. Officers and Knights give the sign of the order.

M. T. Giving the sign says: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost I declare this Castle closed until our next regular session.

M. T. Inside Guardsman you will now open the door that the Knight may depart.

I. G. I will O Master Teacher. (And swings the door open)

M. T. Gives one blow and all Knights are at liberty to depart.

Initiation and some Rules Pertaining thereto.

Every application must be under consideration one month before the Candidate be initiated.

When the M. T. comes to the place in the order of business where it reads. Reports of membership committee. The A. T. will read the name or names of applicants. Then the M. T. will instruct one of the Committee to accompany the Knight who has received the application and propound the necessary questions and receive his answers and report same at the next regular session. The M. T. will instruct all Knights to be ready with any information about the candidate which they may deem necessary for the Castle to know.

The questions which are to be propounded are as follows:

Give full name and address.

Age.....place and date of birth.....White, black or yellow.

Protestant or Catholic.

Have you ever been baptized and by what Church?

To what Church do your parents belong?

Are your parents living? Where do they live?

If they do not belong to any Church, what Church do they attend?

Are you a member of any Church?

If you are accepted by this order would you be willing to unite with the Methodist Episcopal Church?

Are you a member of any Sunday School.....How long have you been a member?

Why are you seeking membership in this order? (Make a careful record of this answer)

Do you desire ETERNAL LIFE? Here the Candidate is instructed that the purpose of the order is to instruct people in the way of everlasting life.

It is necessary that all applicants be members of the Sunday School for at least five months before handing in an application, unless they can show a very good record from some other Evangelical Sunday School. If they come to us from some other Sunday School they must be a faithful member for at least a month before handing in an application. In case of Charter initiates the Grand Master Teacher may give a special dispensation, good material may be taken advantage of in a case of that kind.

At the next regular session the data will be read by the A. T. under reports of Membership Committee. The Candidate will then be balloted on but cannot be initiated the same session.

After all reports are handed in and read by the A. T. the M. T. then proceeds with the Order of business.

Balloting for Membership.

M. T. says: Warden prepare the Ballot. The warden does so and holding the ballot box over his left arm and with his face turned away from the voting Knight he makes

the circuit of the room, beginning with the Chair of the M. T. When all have voted the Warden then returns to the A. T. who examines the ballot. The warden then returns to the M. T. who also examines the ballot.

M. T. then says: How do you find the ballot, worthy Assistant? (if it is clear, he responds)

A. T. Clear, O Master Teacher.

M. T. The Master Teacher then responds I also find it clear and declare the candidate elected.

(But if there be a black ball in the box the A. T. will say: I find the Ballot dark, O Master Teacher.

M. T. Will then respond, I also find it dark and declare the candidate rejected.

If the candidate be rejected the M. T. will read the following rule:

When the candidate is rejected and any Knight tells of it to any one who is not a Knight of the Holy Cross he will be subject to a fine (not to exceed five dollars) or if the castle so votes he may be expelled from the order forever.

When an application is received (any Knight may receive an application) The M. T. turns the application over to the membership committee consisting of the M. T., the A. T., the Sec., and the Chaplain and two other Knights annually elected. (And the Knight who brings in the application also becomes a member of the committee for that particular applicant.) The committee will investigate for two weeks and then the data will be read by the A. T. at the next regular session and the candidate is balloted on. Two weeks from that date he may be received into membership.

If for any reason it is thought some Knight has black balled a candidate because of some personal grudge, the Committee may demand an explanation and if none is given the Committee may call for a second ballot and if there be the same number of black balls as before, may if they see fit declare him elected.

When the M. T. comes to the place in the order of business where it reads: Receiving candidates by initiation, and if there be any he will say

M. T. Warden prepare the Castle for initiation.

Warden: I will, O Master Teacher.

(He does so calling upon any Knight to assist him in the work. He then returns to his chair and says: All is ready O M. T.

Here the M. T. appoints three Knights to go into the outer chamber and assist the W. T. in preparing the candidates for initiation. M. T. The Master then rises and takes up the cross which stands on the left of his Chair and turns to the Cross Bearer who is seated on his right and says:

Take this cross and with it lead the candidate to this throne where he will receive the instruction he seeks.

Cross Bearer: Takes the Cross and says: I will O Master Teacher. (Steps down and takes his place by the warden.)

M. T. (Picks up the spear which stands also at his left and hands it to the warden and says: Take this spear and with it assist the Inside Guardsman in defending the candidate from the Flesh, the World and the Devil.

Warden: takes the spear and says: I will O Master Teacher. (both face the door of the outer chamber or tower)

M. T. Put your faith in God, and no harm can come to either of you, or the candidate; March.

(at the word (march) both step toward the door, when they are about four feet from the door they stop and wheel about, face the M. T. and remain standing.)

M. T. Inside Guardsman you will ascertain if the candidate is in waiting (I. G. steps from his chair to the door and gives one knock, if the W. T. answers with one knock the candidate is ready, if the candidate is ready the I. G. turns to the M. T. and says:

I. G. He is ready O Master Teacher. (if he is not ready he will wait until the W. T. does return his knock)

M. T. Here the Master Teacher appoints a Knight to take the place of Warden and one to take the place of the I. G. then the Master teacher says: Let every Knight keep perfect silence. Inside Guardsman proceed with the initiation. The Master Teacher is then seated.

I. G. strikes twice upon the door.

Three Knights have previously been detailed to assist the W. T. in preparing the candidates. The Candidate who has been stripped of all valuables save his underwear and is clothed in a white robe and is blindfolded, is then led to the inner door by the Watchman of the tower of the Castle, who strikes three times upon the door. Door is opened by the Inside Guardsman.

I. G. Who comes here?

W. T. The Watchman of the Tower.

I. G. What is it, Watchman of the Tower? Why have you called? Why are you at the gate of the castle and not in the tower at your post of duty?

W. T. Inner Guardsman hear the truth and make it known to the Master teacher of the Knights of the Holy Cross. While in the tower at my post of duty I saw a seeking soul on the highway of life, beset with all the temptations that are incident to human life and fearing for his safety I called three Knights to bring him in and when we questioned him he informed us of his quest.

I. G. What does he seek Watchman of the tower?

W. T. Eternal Life.

I. G. You have done well, O Watchman of the tower, to bring the seeking soul to the Castle of the Knights of the Holy Cross. I shall commend you to the Master Teacher for your faithfulness, and inform him concerning this seeking soul. (Closes the door) (Marches between the Cross Bearer and Warden, goes to the center of the room, stands before the altar, salutes the M. T. with the sign, the M. T. arises, answers with the sign and says:

M. T. What is the good word, my brother?

I. G. O Master Teacher of the Knights of the Holy Cross, while guarding the inner door of the castle the faithful Knight and watchman of the tower gave an alarm and informed me that while at his post of duty he saw a seeking soul on the highway of life, beset with all the temptations that are incident to human life and fearing for his safety he called three Knights to bring him in, the seeking soul informed the Watchman of the tower that he was in search of eternal life. I inform you of these things, O Master Teacher, that you may know of the faithfulness of the Watchman of the tower, and also that you may instruct us as to what we shall do with the seeking soul.

M. T. O Inner Guardsman of the Knights of the Holy Cross I rejoice in the faithfulness of the Watchman of the tower and also in yours, you shall in no wise lose your reward. But make haste and return to the inner door of the Castle, bring him into this sacred room, lead him to the Assistant Teacher who will administer to him the oath of secrecy and then lead him to this throne that I may instruct him in the way of eternal life. But first a warning, let every Faithful Knight guard him well, lest our earthly enemies, the flesh, the world, and the devil, waylay him and overcome his resistance before he is well grounded in the faith and truth concerning the way of eternal life.

I. G. Gives sign ** M. T. ans. with sign ** then the I. G. goes to the inner door of the Castle, opens and addresses the Watchman of the Tower as follows: O Watchman of the Tower, I have informed the Master Teacher of your faithfulness, and also of this seeking soul. The Master Teacher rejoices in your faithfulness and promises a reward, he also instructed me to take charge of this seeking soul, to allow him to enter this sacred room, and lead him to the assistant teacher who will administer to him the oath of secrecy, and then to con-

duct him to the throne that he may be instructed in the way of eternal life.

W. T. Every command of the Master Teacher must be obeyed (turns to the candidate and says) I am very glad to have been of some assistance to you, my brother. I shall now return to my post in the tower to watch for other seeking souls on the highway of life. Follow the inner guardsman of the Knights of the Holy Cross, do as he bids and your search for eternal life shall be rewarded with success, if you fail to do his bidding we will have no other choice but to once more turn you loose upon the broad highway of life where you will be denied the sworn friendship and help of every Knight of the Holy Cross, for while every mortal on earth already has our good will it is only to those who have the courage to pass through the grave and terrible ordeal that awaits you and through which every Knight has already passed that we are able to render the peculiar assistance to which every Knight is entitled and which every Knight receives through membership in this sacred order. Farewell my brother and remember that during this grave and terrible ordeal that awaits you I shall be praying for you that God will give you grace and strength to take upon yourself the serious and binding obligation which is absolutely necessary to eternal life and membership in this order. Farewell my brother, and may the blessing of heaven rest upon you and enable you to flee from all the lusts of the flesh that war upon the souls of men and follow after the graces and beauties with which God allures our hearts. You will now be lead by the Inner Guardsman. The I. G. takes the C by the arm and leads him within the door, the door is closed by the W. T. (The watchman of the Tower remains in the outer chamber and at a given signal from the inner door falls upon his knees and clasps his hands and with bowed head and closed eyes lifts up his heart in earnest silent prayer and so remains in this attitude until the signal is given at the inner door that the candidate has taken the oath. If any other Knights are in the outer chamber at the time all must fall upon their knees and offer silent prayer during the administration of the oath)

The I. G. then draws his sword and the Cross Bearer leading, and the Warden with the spear following behind, in this order they proceed to march around the room three times, every time they pass one of the officers' Chairs the officer arises and exclaims (May heaven's choicest blessing rest upon this seeking soul) The last time around they stop before the Chair of the Assistant Teacher. The Warden strikes upon the floor with his spear (three times)

Cross Bearer. Hail Worthy Assistant.

A. T. arises. Who comes here?

I. G. A seeking soul.

A. T. What does he seek.

I. G. Membership in the sacred order of the Knights of the Holy Cross and eternal life.

A. T. addressing Candidate. My friend before you can proceed any further on this quest it is necessary for you to take upon yourself a serious and binding obligation. It is my duty to tell you that this oath will not in any way interfere or conflict with any responsibilities which you are under at the present time, but it will make of you a better citizen, a more earnest Christian and cause you to be a greater blessing to your family and friends. With this understanding are you willing to proceed. (If the candidate answers in the affirmative the A. T. continues.) There are still a few things which must be explained to you before you take the oath which will admit you to membership in the sacred order of the Knights of the Holy Cross. We never want it said by anyone that they were in any way tricked or deceived, but in full possession of their senses and with a perfect knowledge of the principles and purposes of the order they took the oath. You must remember that this is an order that once you enter its sacred walls and take upon yourself the oath of the order, you can never break with it or the Church of which it is a part without violating and outraging your sacred word of honor which is the most sacred possession that a man has this side of the Grave. The first great principle of the order is to teach you the way of eternal life. The second is to instill in your heart, love and loyalty for the Methodist Episcopal Church and encourage you to always look to the Methodist Episcopal Church as your guide in all things spiritual. With this understanding are you willing to proceed? (If the candidate answers in the negative he is taken to the outer door and permitted to depart, if he answers in the affirmative, the A. T. gives one blow with his gavel steps down from his chair, walks around the Cross Bearer and takes a position directly behind the I. G. standing about three feet from him and says follow me, at this word of command all face about and following the A. T. they march toward the altar, the A. T. passes around the altar and faces the Candidate, who with the I. G. C. B. and Warden stop about two feet from the altar. When all are in position the Guard at the inner door gives one rap at the door and the W. T. and all other Knights in the outer chamber fall on their knees and remain in silent prayer during the administration of the oath. Then the M. T. gives one blow with his gavel and all Knights except the M. T. and guard at the inner door come forward in a circle enclosing the altar, when the circle is complete the A. T. commands the candidate to kneel, place his open right hand on the Holy Bible, his left hand over his heart, when he is in position the M. T. gives one

rap of the gavel and at this signal all Knights in the room except the M. T. and A. T. and the guard at the inner door fall upon their knees, clasp hands, and bow their heads in silent prayer while the candidate takes the oath which is as follows:

A. T. says—Say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me. With my right hand resting on Gods most Holy word, and my left hand over my heart, and in the presence of God and these kneeling Knights of the Order of the Holy Cross, I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that the things which I see and hear in this Castle room shall never in any way whatsoever be revealed by me to any one on earth. I swear by Gods Holy Word that the signs, tokens, pass words and grips of the order, which shall be made known unto me by the Master Teacher, shall be received by me as a precious gift and only used by me in the manner in which he shall direct. I further promise and swear by Gods Holy Word that I will always be a true friend to every Knight of the Holy Cross, always preferring him in business, that is, I will buy or sell with Knights of the Holy Cross in preference to all others. I promise and swear never to forsake a Brother Knight unless he by his conduct should disgrace both the order and the Church of which the order is a part. I swear before God never to wrong a brother Knight or see him wronged in any way without doing all in my power to defend him. I most solemnly swear to render both material and spiritual assistance to every brother Knight whom I find in need of either if it is within my power so to do. I further promise and swear by the loving and merciful Christ our Saviour, that I will never forsake a fallen brother, until I have used every possible means to restore him to a living faith in God and membership in this order. I further promise that as this order is a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in close relationship to the Sunday School, that I will never neglect either for worldly pleasures, but do solemnly swear that all my life I shall strive to be a regular attendant at Church and Sunday School, always remembering Gods command; **REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY.**

And now in the presence of God and these kneeling Knights, I declare that I do desire **ETERNAL LIFE**, I do want to live with God throughout eternity, therefore when I do at last stand before the Master Teacher of this order, I most solemnly swear to listen attentively to what he may say, and not only do I promise to listen, but I swear before God to follow the way he directs and at the very first opportunity which may

present itself I will publicly declare my intention of walking in the pathway of life which leads to Gods eternal throne, where I may hear his welcome plaudit: WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER THOU INTO THE JOYS OF THY LORD.

I once more swear before God in heaven, that all of these promises I will faithfully fulfill, and though my hair should be torn from my scalp and my scalp from my head, my eyes gouged out, my limbs torn from my body and my body burned to ashes and the ashes scattered to the four winds of heaven. I shall never reveal any of the secrets of this order to any one except he be as lawfully entitled to the same as I am myself. May God keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same, and in token of my good faith I will now kiss the book which lies before me, which is the Holy Bible. (kisses book.)

A. T. says: AMEN.

Guard at the inner door will give one rap and all Knights in the outer chamber will rise to their feet. The M. T. will then give one rap of the gavel and all kneeling Knights will rise to their feet (candidate still kneeling) the M. T. then gives the second rap and all Knights face about and walk to their chairs and stand before them. the A. T. steps out from the altar and walks to his chair and with one blow of his gavel seats the Knights. The M. T. will then strike three times on a mellow toned gong and at this signal all the lights in the castle will be turned out and candles lighted in just sufficient quantity to enable objects about the room to be dimly seen. When a sufficient number of candles have been lighted (the Knight appointed to fill the Warden's Chair is to do the work) the M. T. will then strike the gong six times (let the blows be struck slowly) When the sound of the gong has died away the I. G. places his hand on the head of the candidate and says: My dear brother I am now going to take from your eyes the bandage which has kept you from looking on the sacred room of the Knights of the Holy Cross. Since you have taken the oath you are now deemed worthy to behold the room and we will now proceed on our journey to the throne of the Master Teacher where you will receive instructions in the way of everlasting life, our way to the throne is long and beset with many dangers, but if your faith is strong in God who can and will supply all your needs you need have no fear (removes hood wink) saying: Arise my brother, come with me.

During this part of the ceremony if any one laughs aloud or in any way makes a disturbance, the ceremony stops at that point and the offending party is expelled from the room and is not permitted to take any part in an initiation ceremony for at least one month. Absolute silence must be maintained throughout this entire cere-

mony. Cross Bearer leading the procession marches around the room three times. The last time around they stop before the screen which is halfway between the altar and the throne. Behind the screen are concealed the FLESH the WORLD and the DEVIL. The Flesh steps out from behind the screen, followed by the devil. The Flesh steps up to the candidate, takes him by the arm and says:

Flesh. Whither art thou going my friend, and what do you seek here upon the broad pathway of life?

Candidate. ETERNAL LIFE. (the I. G. will whisper the answer to the C.)

Flesh. What folly and foolishness. Come with me to the Wine Rooms and we will feast, eat, drink, and be merry. I see upon your face the glow of youth, it will soon fade and your powers for enjoyment will fade with it, come with me and we will enjoy the dance, the drink, and the drama and all the sensual pleasures of life, while the candle of life holds to burn, for when you are dead you are a long time dead, so take my advise and have your fling. The only worth while thing about this short life of ours is a good time, be sure and have it while you can. Come on, let us go at once, come, come, hurry. (pulls at his arm)

Devil. Wisely spoken, Flesh. Go with him, friend, all he says is true, he has been my companion for many years and we have spent many merry times together, he is a jolly good fellow and all his friends are merry, go with him at once, leave your present companions, they are but a sober, solemn set and the way they lead you, will make you miss all the good times of life, leave them, friend, and come with us, come quickly, let us hurry. At this point both seize him by the arms and attempt to pull him behind the screen, but the Cross Bearer turns the Cross toward them, the Knight thrusts off the Devil with his spear and the I. G. thrusts at the Flesh with his sword and both retire behind the screen hissing and snarling out: Wait, we will get him next time, we would have had him then, were it not for the Cross and the followers of the cross, curse, them, curse them, everyone.

Again the procession goes around the room three times and the third time around stops before the screen, this time the World steps out.

World. (He snaps out in a quick business like tone) Well, well, what have we here, another young fool, following the Cross? Say, lad, I want to tell you right now, if you want to make a success in Life, you will have no time for this Christian monkey business. Cut it out, if you don't look out for number one, nobody else will, you are a likely looking young fellow, come with me and I will show you how to make money and get position and power in this world, the

followers of the Cross are always talking about taking care of some poor beggar or some unfortunate heathen in this world, let them take care of themselves, is what I say, I am not to blame or if they are heathen or poor, every man for himself is the only thing that works in this world. Come and brea y away from those softies, come on.

Devil. That is right lad, do as he says, he is wise and he is rich, don't you want to be rich, lad? Forget what these Christian teachers tell you and go after the money of the world, nothing else matters if only you can get money. **MONEY! MONEY!** (Here both the World and the Devil rattle : small bag of money in their hand, and at the sound of the rattle, the Flesh steps out from behind the screen and says:

Flesh. Ah **MONEY, MONEY**, that is the stuff that makes the world go around. You can have fun with money, money gets you everything you want on earth, let's get the money, friend, and then let us go out for a time. Come on, for fun and for money. **COME, COME** on. (At this point all three make a rush for the candidate and try to drag him behind the screen, but the Cross Bearer turns the Cross toward the f ay, the Knight with the spear thrusts at the Devil, the I. G. thrusts at the World and the Flesh. Then after a moment's struggle, the I. G. cries out:

I. G. God have mercy, help us or our brother is lost, have mercy on us and help us in the midst of the terrible trials and temptations of youth.

At this point the lights are suddenly switched on and the M. T. stands up and gives one blow of his gavel and says:

M. T. Let there be peace, no harm can come to him whose faith is in God.

(The Flesh, the World and the Devil put their hands over their faces, as if to shut out the light, the Flesh and World drop quickly behind the screen, all repeating: We have lost him, curse him, his faith is in God, we have no power over those whose faith is in God. The Devil is the last to drop behind the screen, just before he drops out of sight, he suddenly straightens up and says:

D. Curse it. I have lost another life and all because the Church got him while he was yet young. I will find more snares for the youth, I have very little fear of losing them when they are old. Curse the Knights of the Holy Cross, for they help the Church to get the young men. Curse them, curse them every one. (Drops out of sight.)

(Neither the World or the Flesh or the Devil are to appear again in their disguise, so they slip out of their disguise and appear at the close of the ceremony as ordinary Knights)

M. T. For once the Devil tells the truth, he declared

he was not afraid of losing his victims when they are old. And it is surely true that his greatest victories are won because of neglected youth, it is our purpose to keep all Knights from falling into the snares of the Flesh, the World and the Devil. (Is seated)

(Procession resumes its march around the room and stops before the chair of the M. T. Warden, strikes the floor with his spear three times.)

I. G. Hail Master Teacher!

M. T. (Looking at candidate for a few seconds) What have we here? I see before me, a youth who does not wear upon his breast, the Cross which is the Insignia of our order and of a Christian. (Turns to I. G.) Speak Inner Guardsman, for you are responsible for the sanctity of this sacred room and the safety of every inmate. Who is the lad without the Cross, whence comes he and what does he seek?

I. G. Oh, Master Teacher, hear the truth. He is a lad who was led to the Inner door of the Castle by the faithful Knight and Watchman of the Tower, who informed me that while standing guard he saw him wandering upon the highway of life where he was subject to all the temptations that are incident to human life and fearing for his safety he sent three Knights to bring him in, they did so, the lad informed them that he was seeking eternal life. You were informed of these things, O Master Teacher, and you instructed us to lead him into this sacred room and to the A. T. who would administer to him the oath of secrecy, after which we were to lead him to you, where he is to receive instructions in eternal life.

M. T. You have done well, my brother, you shall in no wise lose your reward. But did you meet with any difficulty by the way?

I. G. We did, the Flesh, the World and the Devil attacked us and we were compelled to fight for our souls and the soul of our seeking brother.

M. T. Were you not sufficiently protected?

I. G. All of the Knights were sufficiently protected but the lad was not, he lacked equipment and we were compelled to fight for him.

M. T. What is the equipment which all must put on before they are safe against any attack from the Flesh, the World and the Devil, who are our earthly enemies?

I. G. The whole armor of God.

M. T. And what is the whole armor of God?

I. G. It is the Helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle of truth, the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God) and our feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

M. T. Correct, Inner Guardsman. (Turns to Candidate) and says: "What is your name, my lad?"

C. Answers. (giving full name.)

M. T. What do you seek?

C. ETERNAL LIFE.

M. T. Listen carefully, my lad, and you shall know the way of eternal life. When our blessed Lord was upon the earth, a young man came and knelt before him and said: Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Listen while I read you an account of this incident. (Takes up Bible and reads Mark 10:17-23) This young man was never heard of again for the reason that he did not follow the command of our Lord. You will notice that Christ informed the lad that he was to strip himself of all worldly possessions, this will bring to your mind that before you were permitted to enter this sacred room you were asked to remove all of your outer clothing and that nothing of any earthly value was left in your possession, and even at this present moment, you are destitute of any material worth, and even as you stand naked before us, you are always naked before God and the only thing which will give you worth in the eyes of God is a pure heart and a sincere desire to follow him.

You will never forget that you have sworn to follow him, you must never forget that with your right hand resting upon the Holy Bible and your left hand on your heart you took a solemn vow to listen attentively to your instructions and that you would not only listen but follow them out at your earliest opportunity.

And now listen, Lad, for here is the way of eternal Life (JESUS SAID OF HIMSELF. I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.) That is to say Christ himself is the way of eternal Life. You are to take Jesus as a pattern and try to live like him. You say, well how did he live? The answer is that JESUS WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD. You also are to go about DOING GOOD. We rea

in John 6:47. VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME HATH EVERLASTING LIFE Again we read in John 8:52. IF A MAN KEEP MY WORD HE SHALL NEVER TASTE OF DEATH. Your way to everlasting life is to believe in Jesus Christ and to tell others by word and deed that if only they believe on him they shall have everlasting life, and that Christ will raise them up at the last day even as we read in the gospel of John 6:40

You will be tempted many times to forsake him and follow the Flesh, the World, and the Devil. You will never forget that on your way to this throne that you were attacked by those, our earthly enemies, and had it not been for these two Knights who wear the whole armor of God, you would have been lost, and as they protected you, it now becomes your duty to protect and lead other seeking souls to the throne of God. You must not think that this initiation is sufficient to save your soul, you must remember that our lessons are but symbolic of life in the world and in order to complete the step which you have begun by joining our order, you must at your very first opportunity (if you have not already done so) make an open confession of your purpose to follow Jesus Christ as the way to ETERNAL LIFE by uniting with the Methodist Episcopal Church and placing yourself under the guidance of your Pastor. For we read in Matthew 10:35. Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Therefore if you would have eternal life you must join the Church, for we read in Acts 2:47. That the Lord added daily to the Church such as should be saved. So it is plain to be seen that all who are saved should be in the Church. And further we are to place ourselves under the guidance of our Pastor because we read in 1st Cor. 1:21. That it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. You must remember that you have promised to be faithful in your attendance at Church and Sunday School. Let me impress upon your mind the importance of being regular especially at morning worship, because if you start God's Day in the right manner, you will receive enough spiritual strength to enable you to keep the remainder of it Holy. Following these instructions you will clothe yourself in the whole armor of God, and you will dwell with him throughout an endless eternity. The Inside Guardsman will now conduct you to the altar where you will kneel while our Chaplain offers prayer of Thanksgiving and invokes the Divine blessing.

He will then reconduct you to this throne that I may instruct you in the secret work of the order of the Knights of the Holy Cross.

Procession turns to the right and marches about the room, passing the Chaplain's Chair and the A. T.'s chair and when the Cross Bearer is opposite the altar, they cross over and the Candidate is commanded to kneel, clasp his hands, close his eyes and bow his head. When the Candidate is in the attitude of prayer, the Chaplain stands up. When the Chaplain is on his feet the M. T. will give one blow of the gavel and every Knight but the A. T. and the guard at the inner door and the M. T. stands up. Then the Chaplain crosses over and kneels on the opposite side of the altar and as he is kneeling, the M. T. gives another rap of his gavel and every standing Knight also kneels and the Chaplain offers the following prayer:

Chaplain. Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do, indeed, thank and praise Thy most Holy Name, that Thou hast led this young man thus far on his journey of life. And our prayer for him is that he may always yield himself to the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit. May Thy Holy Spirit touch his eyes that he may clearly see the pathway of Christian duty. And may Thy Holy Spirit dwell in his heart that it may be tender with the love of God, touch his hands that they may be quick to minister to the needs of his fellows, touch his feet that they may be swift to run the errands of mercy as becometh a true Christian.

Thus may his whole life be opened up to the wonderful influence of thy Holy Spirit, and when he has finished the course, having kept the faith, do Thou receive his soul to dwell with Thee throughout eternity. We further pray that he may love and serve the sacred order of the Knights of the Holy Cross all his days, may its influence make him more useful in Thy service. Grant, O Father, that he may never forget the lessons he has received during this ceremony. Keep him true to the serious and solemn oath he has taken, may he aid and strengthen us by his membership in this order. Hear and answer our prayer in behalf of this Knight and we will give Thee praise now and ever more. AMEN. All Knights repeating Amen.

M. T. Gives one rap of the gavel and all rise, the Chaplain takes his place, then the A. T. gives one rap of his gavel and seats the Knights. Then the procession starts around the room, turning toward the Chaplain's chair, passing it, also the A. T.'s chair, and then on to the throne. When all are before the M. T.'s Chair, the Warden with his spear, strikes the floor three times and the I. G. says:

I. G. Hail Master! We have completed the journey and the Candidate is now ready to receive the secret work of the order.

M. T. arises and gives the secret work which is as follows.

My Brother, in the Order of the Knights of the Holy Cross we have

(When all the secret work has been given the M. T. will then say.)

My Brother, you are now a Knight of the Holy Cross entitled to all of its many privileges and blessings and so will you ever be, unless you deliberately forfeit your great privileges by neglected duty and non-payment of dues. However, no true Knight will ever be guilty of such conduct. The Inside Guardian will now conduct you to the outer chamber, where you will be reinvested with what you have been divested, you will then work your way into the Castle and assist us in the closing ceremony.

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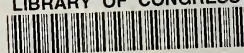


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